

in thanking him for his many years of dedicated service.

**TWENTYNINE PALMS MARINE
CORPS BASE WINS COMMANDER
IN CHIEF AWARD FOR INSTALLA-
TION EXCELLENCE**

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am delighted today to share with my colleagues the announcement that the Commander in Chief's annual Award for Installation Excellence has been bestowed on the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California, which I am honored to represent.

The Marine Corps established a facility in the Mojave Desert at Twentynine Palms nearly 50 years ago when it was determined that they needed open space to conduct live-fire exercises. Over the past five decades, the 932-square-mile base has become one of the largest in the world and one of the most sophisticated training centers for the U.S. military.

I have represented the base and the Twentynine Palms community since I served in the California Legislature, and I have been proud to witness and provide support as the base grew into one of the premiere training sites in the world.

Thousands of Marines from units around the Nation are sent to Twentynine Palms each year to take part in large intensive live-fire exercises, complete with full armament and air support. This training is without question the most realistic possible, and has been credited as saving many lives by Marines returning from the battlefields in the War on Terror.

It was my great honor to support the Marine Corps over the past decade in the development of a new facility called Viper Village, which is considered to be one of the best in the world at providing training for urban warfare and military control of urban areas. This 247-acre facility with more than 400 buildings allows Marines to get a real-life experience of moving into foreign urban areas. The exercise is enhanced by specially-trained actors and "foreign forces" who help provide an understanding of how to deal with both armed urban warfare and non-combatant civilians.

The value of this training has been shown almost daily to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, who are put through a 30-day intensive course before their deployment on the front lines in the War on Terror.

I am pleased but not surprised that the Twentynine Palms Marine Base has received the annual excellence award from the President. The designation would be strongly supported by the thousands of Marines who have trained there, and the 1,900 full-time base personnel who have created a supportive and efficient installation in the remote desert. The base's recent awards have included the Secretary of the Navy's Marine Corps Pollution Prevention Award, the Commandant of the Marine Corps Continuous Process Improvement Special Recognition Award, and the Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports Excellence and Semper Fit Bronze Anchor Awards.

Madam Speaker, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center continues to show a commitment to excellence and improvement in providing the best possible training for our U.S. Marines. The base has begun an extensive upgrade in laying sensors and instruments that will allow commanders and analysts to "see" the movements of every unit during exercises, large and small. Please join me in congratulating the commander, Brig. Gen. H.S. Clardy, and all of the base personnel in receiving their much-deserved honor.

**RECOGNIZING THE MEDICAL CON-
TRIBUTIONS OF DR. ROBERT
SMITH, SR. TO THE CIVIL
RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding medical contributions of Dr. Robert Smith, Sr. and congratulate him on being honored as a "Living Legend" by Central Mississippi Health Services, Incorporated.

A native of Terry, Mississippi, Dr. Smith is no stranger to hard work and has dedicated much of his life to serving others. He earned his Bachelor's of Arts in Chemistry from Tougaloo College in 1957 and his M.D. from Howard University in 1961. Dr. Smith has done extensive postgraduate training at some of the Nation's most prestigious medical institutions such as the University of Mississippi, the University of Tennessee, the Cook County Postgraduate School and the Harvard University. He has an array of professional certifications and has been appointed to a number of administrative, instructional, clinical and hospital positions.

Dr. Smith stood fearlessly on the front lines during Mississippi's Freedom Summer, when civil rights demonstrations were held from Mississippi to Selma, Alabama to Chicago, Illinois, to combat racial inequality.

Equally significant, was as Dr. Smith fought to end inequality for blacks socially, politically and economically, he fought a separate fight in the medical profession. Dr. Smith was instrumental in exposing the racial practices taking place within the American Medical Association. His unwavering commitment to battling acts of racism and discrimination within the medical profession has earned him critical acclaim in national publications such as the New York Times, Time Magazine, Ebony, Brown Magazine, Tufts Medicine and a number of notable scientific publications.

A compassionate man who provides medical care to poor, uninsured and underserved patients, Dr. Smith was the primary founder of the model for the National Neighborhood Health Center Movement which today serves over 17 million Americans.

Dr. Smith was the first African American physician to serve as Chief of Staff at a majority tertiary level hospital in Jackson, Mississippi and has served as a Charter Diplomat and a fellow with the American Board of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

He was one of the lead investigators with the National Research Program for the Na-

tional Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study at the University of Mississippi Medical Center which is currently known as the Jackson Heart Study.

Dr. Smith over the years has proven to be very instrumental in diabetic studies. He has served as primary care physician for the Central Mississippi Health Service.

He chaired the Committee that oversaw the naming of the first federal building to be named after an African American in the state of Mississippi, the Dr. A.H. McCoy Federal Building, located in Jackson, MS.

Dr. Robert Smith is indeed a champion of the people and a trailblazer within the medical profession.

His contributions to his community, profession, state, and nation should serve as example for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize and congratulate a son of Mississippi, Dr. Robert Smith, Sr., for his role in advocating for equality in the medical profession.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 243–245. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

**2010 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL
FINALS**

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, from April 24–26, 2010 more than 1,200 students from across the country visited Washington, DC to take part in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals. We the People is the most extensive educational program in the country that educates young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the United States Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from Lamar Academy in my congressional district represented the state of Texas at this prestigious national event. These exceptional students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our nation's capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which students demonstrate their knowledge and skills as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues. Annual surveys consistently show that high school students who take part